

## IN THE CLAIMS

1-18 (cancelled)

19. (new) A copolymer comprising at least one grafted side chain composed of aldehydes and sulfur-containing acids or salts thereof, wherein the copolymer is water-soluble, biologically degradable, aminoplast former-free, and is based on polyamide.
20. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 19, wherein they contain the polyamide component in proportions of 5 to 80 % by weight , the aldehyde component in proportions of 5 to 90 % by weight and the sulfur-containing acidic component in proportions of 5 to 60 % by weight.
21. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polyamide component natural polyamides, particularly preferably caseins, gelatins, collagens, bone glues, blood albumins, soya proteins and degradation products thereof formed by oxidation, hydrolysis or depolymerization, and synthetic polyamides or mixtures thereof.
22. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polyamide component is a polyaspartic acid or copolymers of aspartic and glutamic acid and degradation products thereof formed by oxidation, hydrolysis or depolymerization as well as mixtures thereof.
23. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 19, comprising a grafted aldehyde based on paraformaldehyde, paraldehyde or unbranched non-aromatic aldehydes formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and glyoxal.
24. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, comprising a grafted aldehyde having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

25. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, comprising formaldehyde, acetaldehyde or glyoxal.
26. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 19, wherein that they contain grafted sulfur-containing acids (salts) based on inorganic sulfur salts.
27. (new) A copolymer according to claim 26, wherein the grafted sulfur containing acid is a sulfite, hydrogen sulfite a disulfites of an alkali metal or aluminium, iron or ammonium.
28. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, wherein that the side chain further comprises at least one compound from the series ketones and aromatic alcohols.
29. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 28, comprising additional compound is/are present in proportions of 5 to 85 % by weight.
30. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 28, comprising grafted ketones based on non-aromatic ketones 2-propanone, 2-butanone or pyruvic acid.
31. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 28, comprising grafted aromatic alcohols based on phenols, cresols, catechols or resorcins.
32. (new) A copolymers as claimed in claim 19, produced by graft polymerization at temperatures between -10 and 250°C.
33. (new) The copolymer of claim 29, wherein the graft polymerization is conducted in the presence of a solvent.
34. (new) A composition comprising an inorganic binder and the copolymer of

claim 19.

35. (new) The copolymer of claim 28, wherein said graft polymerization is by thermal treatment.
36. (new) The copolymer of claim 19, wherein the copolymer has a molar mass  $\overline{M}_n$  of <50,000 g/mol.
37. (new) The copolymer of claim 33, wherein said solvent is a polar solvent.
38. (new) The copolymer of claim 37, wherein said polar solvent is water is dimethylsulfoxide.
39. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, wherein they contain the polyamide component in proportions of 10 to 60 % by weight of the aldehyde component in proportions of 10 to 70 % by weight by weight and the sulfur-containing acidic component in proportions of 15 to 40 % by weight.